



Short-Term Strategies and Small County Issues Workgroups – Overview Conference Call

Mental Health Services Act

Tuesday March 1, 2005

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Toll-free Call in Number: 1-877-366-0714

No password needed

TTY 1-800-735-2929



CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA

- | | |
|------|---|
| 3:00 | Welcome – Bobbie Wunsch |
| 3:02 | Review Agenda, Purpose and Organization of March 16 |
| | Workgroup Sessions – Bobbie Wunsch |
| 3:05 | Short Term Strategies – Carol Hood |
| 3:15 | Q&A – Short Term Strategies – Bobbie Wunsch and DMH Staff |
| 3:30 | Small County Issues and Strategies – Carol Hood |
| 3:40 | Q&A – Small County Issues – Bobbie Wunsch and DMH Staff |
| 3:58 | Next Steps, Summary and Adjourn – Bobbie Wunsch |



Purpose

- Short-Term Strategies
 - Provide suggestions of programs/services that the state should consider funding
- Small County Issues
 - Obtain Feedback on the draft Small County Implementation Considerations paper
 - Obtain suggestions for revising draft Community Services and Supports requirements for small counties



Short-Term Strategies

- The Department has embarked on a comprehensive state and local planning process.
- Seeking ideas that may be funded prior to completion of full stakeholder process
 - Funding expected to be from state's funding (5% for implementation and oversight)



Short-Term Strategies

- Draft Criteria for consideration of any short-term strategy:
 - Consistent with vision
 - General consensus among stakeholders
 - Benefiting individuals in all or most counties
 - Projects where one-time or short-term funding is needed
 - County commitments to keep some programs running may be essential



Short-Term Strategies

Potential Idea

- **Network of Care** (www.networkofcare.com)
 - Expand statewide, currently in 5 counties
 - Initial cost less than \$2M
 - Features
 - Information and referral
 - County specific and resources
 - Library of relevant articles
 - Links to legislation and legislators
 - Communication



Short-Term Strategies

Potential Idea

- **Suicide Prevention**

- There is a national and state suicide prevention plan
- Begin implementation consistent with state plan



Short-Term Strategies

Potential Idea

- **Telemedicine**—expands access to specialists
 - Initial investment is in equipment and connections (approximately \$10-15K per site)
 - Needs ongoing commitment of staffing and resources for ongoing service and to maintain systems.



Q & A

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES



DRAFT Small County Implementation Considerations

- Purpose of the paper is to explore
 - Unique issues faced by small counties and their stakeholders and
 - Strategies they might consider to make values and vision of MHSA a reality in their communities.



DRAFT Small County Issues and Strategies

- Stakeholder Process
 - Often few administrative staff
 - May need to redirect direct service staff
 - Need someone to work with consultants, if applicable
 - Involvement of Clients/Families
 - Scarcity of alternative transportation
 - May need to go where clients/families are
 - Training
 - Need new ideas/perspectives from outside the county
 - Stigma
 - Fear of Impact on Current Services
 - Interagency Collaboration typically is strong



DRAFT Small County Issues and Strategies

- Funding

- Guaranteed base funding
 - Administrative requirements the same
 - Small client numbers
 - Higher costs

- Implementation

- Graduated process for implementation
 - Based on amount of MHSA funding and population



DRAFT Small County Issues and Strategies

- Shortage of Qualified Staff
 - Few private practitioners
 - Few/if any community based organizations
 - Especially critical, shortages
 - Psychiatrists
 - Bi-lingual, bi-cultural staff and interpreters
- Need an expansion of telemedicine



DRAFT Small County Issues and Strategies

- Client/Family Employment
 - Typically high unemployment rates
 - Opportunity for difficult to fill positions
 - Potential Strategy
 - Work through community based organization
 - With few practitioners, there may be difficulty with employee-employer relations and therapeutic relationship



DRAFT Small County Issues and Strategies

- Housing
 - Problems are similar to larger counties
 - Insufficient availability of affordable housing
 - Not in my backyard (NIMBY) difficulties
 - Increases in cost of rent/housing exceeds increases in wages
 - Need technical assistance in the variety of options that are available



DRAFT Small County Issues and Strategies

- Issues with Regionalization
 - Geography is real problem
 - Finding facilities is difficult
- Many examples of effective regional approaches
 - Suggestion--Employment of consumers/families



Small County Flexibility

- DRAFT Community Service and Support Requirements
 - The department recognizes unique needs and resource constraints of small counties
 - Request for assistance in adapting requirements to provide flexibility for small counties



Q & A

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES



Next Steps

- **Two** Workgroup topics on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 in Sacramento
 - Small County Issues and Strategies
 - Short-Term Strategies
- Workgroups 1-4 PM
- Client/Family Member Pre-meeting 9:30-11:30 AM